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10/601,528

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Shigeki Matsunaga

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Response to Amendment**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 04 September 2008.

**Response to Arguments**

2. Applicant's arguments filed 04 September 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. Claims 1, 3, 22, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 37 have been amended to add the limitation "***and the specified name being a predetermined name for allowing a printing apparatus to identify a print data file as the Top Page print data file***". This new limitation requires further search and/or consideration.
4. Regarding Claim 12, the applicant argues that the prior art of Nakatusuma (US 6,115,132) fails to teach "*a sequential transmission unit transmits sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document*". The examiner respectfully disagrees. As recited in col. 28, lines 36-54, the prior art teaches "***a server including sequential order control means (CPU 200 of the server) for controlling the print sequential order in accordance with the job information transmitted from the transmitting means***". Additionally col. 25, lines 5-17 recites that "***the print data of each job is sequentially transferred***" and "***one client PC can sequentially spool a plurality of jobs***". At S4903 of Fig. 49, "***in accordance with the job ID contained in the print start instruction of the virtual server 101, the job information of the job received the print start instruction is searched from all sets of the job information***".

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***(interpreted by the examiner as multiple/plural jobs or data files) managed by the client service***” (col. 25, lines 40-44). Since a plurality of jobs can be searched to determine the order of the jobs to be transferred, it is being interpreted by the examiner that the server can determine the transmitting order of the plurality of print jobs/files.

Additionally, applicant argues that the prior art of Lahey (US 6,587,217) fails to teach “*that the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files*”. The examiner respectfully disagrees. As recited in col. 6, lines 64-65, “***the print submission attribute record 56 includes information on the print job such as scheduling options*** *(interpreted by the examiner as the transmitting order of the print data files), priority, difficulty, etc.*”

5. Regarding Claim 16, applicant argues that the prior art of Nakatsuma fails to teach “*print data files accompanied by a flag indicating a completion of the transmission, the flag being attached to one print data file to be transmitted to the printing apparatus last out of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document*”. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The prior art teaches a data transfer end flag which is set when the data transfer end notice is received by the virtual server (col. 25, line 40-col. 26, line 23).

6. Regarding Claim 26, the applicant’s arguments have been addressed above with respect to claim 12.

7. Regarding Claim 32, the applicant’s arguments have been addresses above with respect to claim 12.

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8. Regarding Claims 34 and 36, the applicant's arguments have been addresses above with respect to claim 12.

9. Regarding Claim 38, the applicant's arguments have been addresses above with respect to claim 12.

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SATWANT K. SINGH whose telephone number is (571)272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Satwant K. Singh/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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